

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
July 8, 2019

VHB, Inc. offices, 100 Great Meadow Road, Wethersfield CT 9:30

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Monday, July 8 at the offices of VHB, Inc. Present were Chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti, Bob Dickinson, Jim Culpa, Joe Hickey and Gwen Marrion. Laura Brown participated by phone. Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:36.

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Bruce.
2. Designation of Secretary for this meeting: Gwen volunteered to take minutes.
3. Acceptance of revisions to agenda. None.
4. Adoption of minutes of June meeting: will be done at September meeting because no quorum present at this meeting.
5. Chairman's Report
 - Bruce has been in contact with DOT personnel re work in Plainville. Scott Bushee is the DOT person working on it. Surveying is still in progress. Project will extend from Town Line Road to a park in Southington. A portion will be along the tow path of the canal.
 - Resurfacing of a portion of the Air Line Trail: some discussion of whether the East Coast Greenway Alliance or a private corporation would provide funding for the materials. Goal is to have entire trail off of Route 6.
 - Hop River Trail: last section needs bridge abutments. Possibly finished in 2022. Bridge near Mackey's is almost done.
 - Air Line Trail: Goodwin State Forest area needs surfacing. DEEP has materials but not labor. Route signage and economic wayfaring signage needed in Willimantic.
 - The CT Resource Conservation and Development Organization is planning to do a study on the effect of trails on economic development.
 - Bloomfield: Route 189 to Day Hill Road: paving is done. Gap still exists from Curtis Park to the center of town.
 - Hartford: River Trail north from the Hartford Boat House is entering final design and will begin over the winter. It is designed to withstand seasonal flooding. Riverfront Recapture bought Christensen Farm land. Potentially a step toward a path through Keney Park.
 - Kiosk maps: Bruce is talking to DOT about what is and is not permissible in terms of listing businesses.
 - CT Trail Census Coordinator job search: Laura Brown reported that an offer is close to being finalized. Also, she submitted a grant for a state mapping project to the National Park Service Recreational Trails Assistance program.

6. Legislative Report: None because Special Session rescheduled.

7. CT DOT Bike/Ped Advisory Comm.: None.

8. Old Business

- Status report on appointments: no change.
- Trails Symposium Planning Committee: Laurie has a phone call regarding this tomorrow.

9. New Business

- If/when to announce next round CT Rec Trails grant: in past have opened it without knowing if funds available. Pro: gauges need for funds. Con: looks bad if no funding. DEEP did not join the federal program again because federal requirements are cumbersome. Special Session will determine if funding available. Perhaps Council should consider other sources of funding such as through partnerships with other similarly-minded organizations. Only feasible if large amount (i.e. \$2 million) can be raised. Best to keep statewide focus, not town by town. Laurie will talk to American Trails.
- Gwen reported that the celebration of the new section of trail in Bolton will be held Saturday October 12 at 9:00. Bruce will send her a list of people to invite. When Gwen creates a pdf invitation Laurie will circulate it to various groups. Laurie will also send an email about how we can sign up for a trail listserve.

10. Public comment: None.

11. Next meeting: Monday, September 9. No meeting in August.

12. Adjournment: 10:58.

Submitted by

Gwen Marrison